

Message Text

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10/46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 210650Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3749

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 3342

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y P A R A 3

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: LAND REFORM: PMAC ISSUES DIRECTIVES ON FARMERS'
ASSOCIATIONS

REF: ADDIS 2700

1. IN FRONT PAGE STATEMENT IN ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF MARCH 20, THE
PMAC ISSUED DIRECTIVES ON THE FORMATION OF SMALL FARMERS' ASSOCIA-
TIONS. ACCORDING TO DIRECTIVE, ASSOCIATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED
ON VILLAGE, DISTRICT AND PROVINCE LEVELS WITH EVERY FARMING COM-
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MUNITY WHICH OCCUPIES LAND AREA OF 20 GASHAS (800 HECTARES)

ELIGIBLE TO ESTABLISH FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS.

2. THE MINISTRIES OF LAND REFORM AND ADMINISTRATION, INTERIOR, NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO ASSIST WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH ASSOCIATIONS "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

3. THE FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS WILL PROTECT AND PROMOTE RIGHTS OF MEMBERS ON BASIS OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIALISM AND SERVE AS LINK BETWEEN FARMERS AND "OTHER PROGRESSIVE FORCES" IN GENERAL AND WORKING PEOPLE IN PARTICULAR.

4. MAIN TASK OF FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS IS TO DIVIDE FARM LAND AMONG RURAL FARMERS, IMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES ON LAND UTILIZATION, ADMINISTER PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN EACH REGION, AND ELECT MEMBERS OF JUDGES' PANELS TO DEAL WITH LAND DISPUTES WITHIN EACH REGION.

COMMENT: WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF DIRECTIVES ON FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS, PMAC HAS TAKEN ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION. WE CONSIDER THAT CREATION THESE BODIES WILL BRING US TO NEXT LAND REFORM THRESHHOLD WHICH WILL BE CROSSED WHEN ASSOCIATIONS BEGIN DELICATE TASK OF REDISTRIBUTING LAND. WE ALREADY HAVE SEVERAL REPORTS, WHICH WE ARE CHECKING, OF RISING DISQUIET IN ARMED FORCES, NOTABLY SECOND AND THIRD DIVISIONS, AS TROOPS TRY SQUARE LAND REFORM PROCLAMATION WITH THEIR PERSONAL INTEREST IN LANDHOLDING AND WITH THEIR RETIREMENT EXPECTATIONS, WHICH USUALLY CENTER ON LAND-GRANTS TO SUPPLEMENT OR IN LIEU OF PENSION PAYMENTS.

WYMAN

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